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La Mesa Streets Honor Military Men

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La Mesa Streets Honor Military Men

The streets in La Mesa Village are named after military personnel, living and dead. Seven were men of national importance, two were men from the local area, five were men of importance in local history and one was a past superintendent of the Postgraduate School.

Farragut Road. ADM David Gloscoe Farragut, USN, 1801-70. First U.S. naval officer ever to attain the grade of Rear Admiral. His greatest achievement was the capture of Mobile Bay in 1864. For this he was given the new grade of Vice Admiral, and after the war, Congress created for him the rank of Admiral.

Halsey Road. ADM William F. Halsey, Jr., USN, 1882-1959. With the rank of Vice Admiral, he assumed command of the fleet and planned the attack on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands in February, 1942. In 1944, as full Admiral, he was given command of the Third Fleet. His fleet acted in support of the forces that liberated the Philippine Islands in 1945. In April, 1946, the U.S. Senate approved Halsey's appointment as a permanent Five-Star Admiral. He retired in December, 1946.

Leahy Road. ADM William Daniel Leahy, USN, 1875-1959. Retired as Rear

Admiral in 1939. In July, 1942, he was ordered to active duty as President Roosevelt's Chief of Staff. In December, 1944, he was appointed a Five-Star Admiral. He resigned as President Truman's Chief of Staff in 1949.

Spruance Road. ADM Raymond Ames Spruance, USN, born 1886. After numerous Chief of Staff, Aide and Deputy positions, ADM Spruance served as Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, November, 1945-February, 1946; President of Naval War College, Newport, R.I., 1946. After his retirement on July 1, 1948, he served as Ambassador to the Philippines, 1952-55. He now resides in Pebble Beach.

Moreell Circle. ADM Ben Moreell, CEC, USN, Born 1892. Served as Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks; Chief Civil Engineers, USN, 1937-45. Considered "Father of the Seabees," he was the first Navy Staff Corps officer to achieve Four-Star rank. Retired 1946.

Moran Circle. RADM Edmond Joseph Moran, USN, born 1896. Served on the staff of the Allied Naval Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, 1943. This duty

included control of all tugs in the U.S. Navy, Royal Navy, U.S. Army, Ministry of War Transportation and War Shipping Administration, the planning and execution of tug towing operations prior to and during the assault on France.

Ricketts Drive. ADM Claude C. Ricketts, USN, 1906-54. Served as Vice Chief of Naval Operations from November, 1961 to July, 1964. He was a leader in the development of the Multilateral Force concept. The USS BIDDLE was renamed the USS CLAUDE V. RICKETTS in memory of ADM Ricketts.

Brownell Circle. LTJG Raymond Brownell. Killed in action in one of the last campaigns of the war in the Pacific. From a Carmel family, "Bud" was commissioned an Ensign in 1943.

Leidig Circle. LT Theodore Ramann Leidig, 1912-43. "Ted" was a naval aviator who was killed in a plane crash in 1943. The Leidigs are a Carmel family.

Gillespie Lane. LT Archibald H. Gillespie, USMC, 1812-73. Delivered a message from President Polk to American Consul in Monterey, Thomas O. Larkin. (See Classmate, November, 1969.)

Revere Road. LT John W. Revere, USN, 1812-80. Seized Sonoma with USS PORTSMOUTH's landing party July 9, 1846.

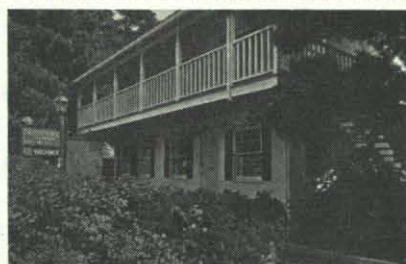
Shubrick Road. COMM. William B. Shubrick, USN, 1790-1874. Commander of Naval Forces, California, July, 1847-May, 1848.

Biddle Lane. CAPT James Biddle, USN, 1773-1848. Commander, Naval Forces, California, January-July, 1847.

Bergin Drive. RADM Charles Kniese Bergin, USN, 1904-64. Served as Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, 1963-1964.

Information lacking at this time on Fechteler Drive, Malloway Lane and Deakin Circle.

—F. E. Small



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